

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

Control: 18819

NEA

Revd: October 26, 1962
4:12 p.m.

Info FROM: Beirut

SS TO: Secretary of State

SR

G NO: 462, October 26, 7 p.m.

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SAL NIACT

ARA

IO ACTION DEPARTMENT 462, INFORMATION USUN NIACT 43.

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IOP Policy

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RMR Re our interception of Lebanese-registered ship MARUCIA, I have talked with Prime Minister Karame with view to reducing unfavorable repercussions in Lebanon.

Karame seemed unworried. Like Port Captain Baddura he pointed out such ships (of which there are nearly 200) merely carry Lebanese flag for convenience and that ownership is non-Lebanese. He said he would so indicate if questioned publicly on subject.

MEYER

LTR/14

NOTE: Advance copy Mr. Crawford (NE) and SFS-O 10-26-CWO-L

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